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S. C. STATE LIBRARY

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South Carolina State Library Board

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## NEWS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

November 1960

40th Issue

### SCLA CONVENTION

The South Carolina Library Association met in Columbia October 28-29 with more than 300 librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries in attendance.

At the opening general session, with the president, Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson, presiding, the Association heard a panel composed of Miss Estellene P. Walker, State Library Board, Miss Nancy Jane Day, State Department of Education, Mr. Alfred Rawlinson, University of South Carolina, and Mr. Richard Harwell, A L A Staff, discuss the A L A Goals for Action. The first three panel members spoke from the public, school, and college and university library viewpoints, respectively, while Mr. Harwell served as resource person.

After the section meetings held on the afternoon of October 28, the membership of the Association and guests were entertained by the Columbia Library Club with a tea at the Governor's Mansion.

At the banquet meeting, the second general session, Mr. Harwell spoke on the literature of the Civil War, an address titled, "Gone with Miss Ravenel's Courage; Or Bugles Blow So Red."

The business meeting, on the morning of October 29, heard reports from officers of the Association, from standing committees, from the sections, and from the Association's representatives to the A L A and the Southeastern Association. The Planning Committee's report included a recommendation that the possibility of holding some future annual meetings in smaller cities be investigated by the Executive Committee. The president announced that this has been accepted and that a special committee has been appointed to collect information. The meeting also adopted a motion that the Association thank the state's six Congressmen for voting for a five-year extension of the Library Services Act.

Miss Jessie G. Ham, Head of the Catalog Department, McKissick Library, University of South Carolina, was elected Vice-President and president elect. Other officers elected at the business meeting were: Mrs. Harry E. DePass, Librarian, Park Hills Elementary School, Spartanburg, Secretary; and Miss Jane Wright, Winthrop College Department of Library Science, Treasurer. Miss Nancy Jane Day, Supervisor of Library Services, State Department of Education, is Vice-President and will become President on January 1, 1961.



The conference was concluded with a luncheon at which Miss Azile Wofford, University of Kentucky, related the developments she has seen take place in public, school, and college libraries since the time she was a teacher-librarian in her native Laurens County. Her background of experience in these three fields gave authority to her remarks.

#### JOINT TRUSTEE--PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION LUNCHEON

Approximately 93 trustees and librarians attended the joint luncheon meeting of the Trustee and Public Library Sections. Miss Helen Harris, former librarian of the Lawson McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tennessee, spoke to the group on "A Lordly Task" which she defined as the work of bringing public libraries and the services they offer abreast of other developments in modern society. Miss Harris listed the responsibility of trustees to secure a competent librarian and adequate financial support for the library as paramount duties. She mentioned other trustee responsibilities as interpretation of the library and its policies to the community, cooperation with public officials, and maintenance of good public relations.

All the officers of the Trustee Section were re-elected: Mrs. John S. Smith, Spartanburg, Chairman; Mrs. T. A. Black, Colleton County, Vice-Chairman; and Mrs. Ora H. Kirkley, Pickens County, Secretary.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION

Over a hundred public librarians and friends of libraries attended the business meeting of the section held at the Richland County Public Library immediately following the Public Library-Trustee luncheon. Miss Carrie Gene Ashley, Chairman, presided. The chairmen of the various committees of the Section reported on their activities, and at the suggestion of the Legislative Committee, the by-laws were changed to conform to those of the South Carolina Library Association. Mr. Bryan Roberts, Chairman of the Committee on Curriculum-Related Reference Service, reported that it had been impossible to get a meeting of that committee, but that much groundwork had been done in studying the problem as reported in state and national library periodicals. At his suggestion, the committee was continued for an additional year.

Miss Dorothy Smith of the State Library Board staff reported on the Junior Intern Program. Her report was followed by a discussion of the program as conducted during the previous year. Librarians who had been engaged in the program as supervisors of junior interns gave enthusiastic reports of its value to their libraries and of its potential in recruiting qualified young people for the profession. The Section agreed to support the program for the coming year and to give the State Library Board full cooperation in its planning and execution. Miss Nancy Blair, Children's Consultant on the staff of the State Library Board, reported on the Carolina Trails Reading Club



which was conducted throughout the state during the past summer. Miss Ashley called for an expression of opinion on the advisability of holding a workshop or institute during the coming year. It seemed the consensus of the group that such workshops were of great value to the public librarians and the Executive Board was given the authority to make plans for a workshop in 1961.

The following slate of officers was elected: Elizabeth Porcher, Greenwood City and County Public Library, Chairman; Mrs. Sarah C. Smith, Anderson County Library, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. M. H. Mims, Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library, Secretary-Treasurer.

### SOUTHEASTERN HIGHLIGHTS

At the Southeastern Library Association Conference in Asheville, October 13-15, Bryan Roberts, State Library Board, represented South Carolina on the Public Library Section's committee examining cooperative uses of special materials to provide wider usage. The committee's project for the forthcoming two years will be a study, by state, of reference systems and channels currently in effect. After an exchange of ideas and a critical examination of present deficiencies, it is felt that a better service to isolated communities and small businesses will result.

Miss Emily Sanders, Charleston County Library, was elected the new South Carolina representative to the Executive Board, succeeding Herbert Hucks.

The County and Regional Libraries Section voted 93-0 to discontinue the section and to unite with the Public Library Section. This decision was made because the group strongly felt that all the section members are public librarians interested in the development of larger units of service, in improved public libraries wherever they may be and under whatever type of governmental support. The group felt it could continue its special interests and activities under the guidance of the Public Library Section and urged this section to make full use of the great potential leadership of the new membership.

Mr. Jonathan Daniels, Editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, read a paper, "Look Backward, Angel," based on personal reminiscence of Thomas Wolfe.

Mrs. Grace T. Stevenson, Deputy Director of A.L.A., led a panel discussion of problems involved in "Reference Resources and Services for Students."

South Carolina public librarians and trustees seen at the convention included Mrs. Carrie Phinney Abbott, Miss Carrie Gene Ashley, L. C. Berry, Miss Nancy Blair, Miss Mary Cox, Miss Josephine Crouch, Mrs. Jane Pate Featherstun, Miss Nell Garrard, Mrs. Elizabeth Green, Mrs. E. V. Hinton, Mrs. Catherine H. Lewis, George Linder, Miss Frances Reid, Bryan Roberts, Miss Dorothy Smith, Charles E. Stow, Mrs. Frances C. Stuart, Mrs. Verona Thomas, and Miss Estellene P. Walker



## N L W EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Mrs. Catherine H. Lewis, Horry County Memorial Library, who has accepted the appointment as Executive Director of National Library Week for South Carolina 1961, attended the special N L W workshop at the S E L A in Asheville, October 15. In the course of the S C L A convention Mrs. Lewis presided at a meeting to plan activities for the week in this state. Most of the discussion was centered on ways and means by which the observance could best serve South Carolina libraries and how more citizen interests and talents could be utilized in the program.

The State Chairman has not been appointed.

## OCONEE BUILDING RENOVATION

Good news from Oconee County centers on an appropriation of \$11,800 obtained recently for renovation of the library building. Work has already begun.

## ANNUAL MEETING--SOUTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The annual meeting of the South Carolina Committee on Children and Youth will be held on November 18, 1960, at the Wade Hampton Hotel, Columbia, South Carolina. On the agenda for the meeting is a discussion of the two priorities for action set by the South Carolina White House Committee on Children and Youth. These are to strengthen legislation effecting children and youth in the areas of adoption laws, child labor laws, and marriage laws. Registration will be between 10:00 and 10:30, A. M. The first meeting will open at 10:30, and the session will close after a business meeting at 3:00 in the afternoon.

Mr. Arthur W. Motley, Director, Bureau of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, will speak on the child labor situation; and Dr. Harriet L. Goldberg, Legal Specialist, Social Services Division, U. S. Children's Bureau, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, will speak on adoptions.

Librarians and library trustees who were members of the county White House Committees or were concerned with the survey of activities affecting children and youth are urged to attend the November 18th conference.



## YOUNG ADULT WORKSHOP

A Southern Public Library Young Adult Workshop will be held at the Florida State University Library School, Tallahassee, November 10-12, 1960. It is being sponsored by the Florida State Library and the Florida State University Library School.

The program will be devoted to young adult materials and services and will include talks on the nature of the adolescent, on trends and writing for adolescence, and on trends in adolescent reading; group discussions of various problem areas; organization of a young adult department; services for young adults; and a carnival of new books for young adults.

Planning to attend from South Carolina are Miss Nancy C. Blair, State Library Board, and Mrs. William Foran, Richland County Public Library.

## S. C. WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE AGING

The South Carolina White House Conference on the Aging points up some areas in which public libraries can cooperate in providing a meaningful activity for senior citizens in their communities. Many South Carolinians who have pursued successful careers elsewhere are retiring to South Carolina. These people are looking for activities which will give them an opportunity to serve their community and to take an active part in community affairs. In many cases they are exceptionally well-trained and have much to offer to the community.

One suggestion that has been made is that the library could use retired elementary school teachers in a story telling program or in other activities which would widen the library service to children beyond the mere circulation of books. Another suggestion is that a small group of senior citizens be organized on a volunteer basis as library visitors to carry the library's books and services to shut-ins. Local libraries will be able to think of other projects in which senior citizens can be of real assistance to them in carrying out their program. All projects should be done on a volunteer basis, and should put no extra strain on the library's already inadequate budget.

## NEW STAFF MEMBER

Mrs. Martha Wharton, formerly head of the Circulation Department of the University of Virginia Law School Library, has joined the staff of the Spartanburg Public Library. Mrs. Wharton holds the library science degree from George Peabody College. Her husband, Weir E. Wharton, is an engineer with Deering-Milliken in Spartanburg.



## LIBRARIANS ARE TALKING ABOUT

Best Paperbacks for Schools and Libraries (Grades 4-12) annotates more than 500 paperback titles, listed by subject and grade level. The catalog is available without charge from: Readers' Choice, 33 West 42nd Street, New York 36, New York.

Jane Addams Centennial kit of free materials contains pamphlets, fliers, posters, seals, and postal cards for use in conjunction with books about Jane Addams. For this exhibit kit, write to: Jane Addams Centennial Committee, Jane Addams House, 2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.

Our American Heritage, a series of historical dramatizations to be presented on NBC-TV this winter, offers an excellent opportunity for a library tie-in. The next scheduled programs will be about Andrew Jackson, on December 2, and Theodore Roosevelt, on January 13. American Heritage, cooperating with the sponsor, the Equitable Life Assurance Society, will supply for each telecast "the what-when-where of each situation; vignettes of the period in the life of the famous American who will be depicted. . . ; and a list of pertinent books." If your library is not already on the mailing list for this material, write to: American Heritage, 551 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, New York.

Rembrandt Reproductions. The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, has made reproductions of 50 etchings and drawings of Rembrandt which libraries may request for exhibition. The only costs will be return postage and insurance for \$50.00. Address requests to: Mrs. Alice M. Schrijver, the Netherlands Information Service, 711 Third Avenue, New York 17, New York.

## YOUR PROBLEMS

by Anne Library

Dear Ann:

As desk librarian at our library, I am always doing the major portion of work it seems. Recently, our librarian put an interlibrary loan poster on the circulation desk. Now all the patrons see the sign and want me to secure books for them through this service. I tell them we have plenty of good books in our collection for everyone to read and that the interlibrary loan service should be used only for serious study. When our head librarian got word of this she was furious. She thinks I should try to obtain every request no matter how trivial. I don't believe she realizes how much work there is in verifying, typing the cards and keeping track of the books. Is she right or am I?

Uncertain



Dear Uncertain:

You're both right... and you're both wrong! The interlibrary loan service can be used too much as well as too little. If you're in doubt as to what constitutes a valid interlibrary loan, re-read the regulations in your county manual. Being familiar with and following these rules and procedures is one sure way of getting the best possible service. It's true some of the regulations are restrictive, but the service is by no means limited to "serious study." It should be used by the businessman wanting to know more about his job, by the housewife with decorating or cleaning problems, by the teen-ager who wants the latest developments on his hobby interests... (I could go on ad infinitum).

The next time you get one of these "trivial" requests, don't just jot off a card for interlibrary loan. Search your collection for the subject. Librarians know much more than patrons about locating information. When you find materials overlooked by them they will begin to realize that your personal services are very valuable. The adequacy of your book collection should surprise them too.

If your cupboard is bare, don't hesitate to call for interlibrary loan. This service is the backbone of the systems-of-libraries principle since it keeps your collection from being a static one. I think you'll agree that the minor postal charges and the small additional work required make it a good investment in your library's public relations program.

Dear Anne:

Remember that song about "The Little Man Who Was Not There?" Well, I keep seeing him and he shows no signs of going away. He was "not there" again at SELA, but he sure is "here." I'm beating about the bush to delay hearing your verdict. Honestly, Anne, if you can't see him either, I am ready for Bull Street and will go quietly. The Little Man in this case is the problem of curriculum-related reference work which is deluging the library with swarms of teen-agers looking for fifteen references on everything from Galahad's horse to the symbolic poetry of the early Mayans. From 3 o'clock until closing time, we are so swamped with high school students and their assignments as to be out of business as a public library.

When I saw a panel discussion on the SELA program devoted to Reference Resources and Services for Students, I jumped at the chance to go to Asheville and hear what the experts recommend. I give you my word, Anne, they never even touched on the problem. They skirted it skittishly, hinted at it, but as to looking at it, they were as blind as bats. The philosophy of the entire panel seemed to be "See no evil; hear no evil; speak no evil, or if you won't look a problem in the face it will go away."

Shook



Dear Shook:

Calm down. Your order for a straight jacket is premature. The problem of curriculum-related reference work does exist, and why the panel members refused to face up to it I do not know. I suspect that they, too, are aware of the problem, and cannot help but wonder if they were afraid of it. Or since the panel included public, school, and college librarians, did the participants think that mentioning the problem might imply unmannerly criticism of fellow panelists? Perhaps there is after all an uncomfortable amount of truth in Alice I. Bryan's profile of the typical librarian. (See her Public Librarian, p. 43, and cringe.)

Do you have a problem? Write to Anne Library.

#### SEEN HERE AND THERE

Mrs. Elizabeth Green's SCLA Recruiting Committee responsible for an attractive and informative exhibit at SELA.

The Richland County Public Library's story hour highlighted by a demonstration of fire fighting equipment.

The Pickens County Library putting its new Gerstenslager bookmobile into service.

The Spartanburg Public Library holding simultaneously a discussion group for mothers of pre-school children and a story hour for the children.

The York County Library extending its hours of service. The library will now be open 10:00-5:00 Monday and Tuesday, 9:00-5:00 Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The Rock Hill Public Library being given a sample of uranium ore.

Miss Agnes Mansfield, Greenwood City and County Public Library, receiving congratulations on her graduation from the Rutgers University Graduate School of Library Service.

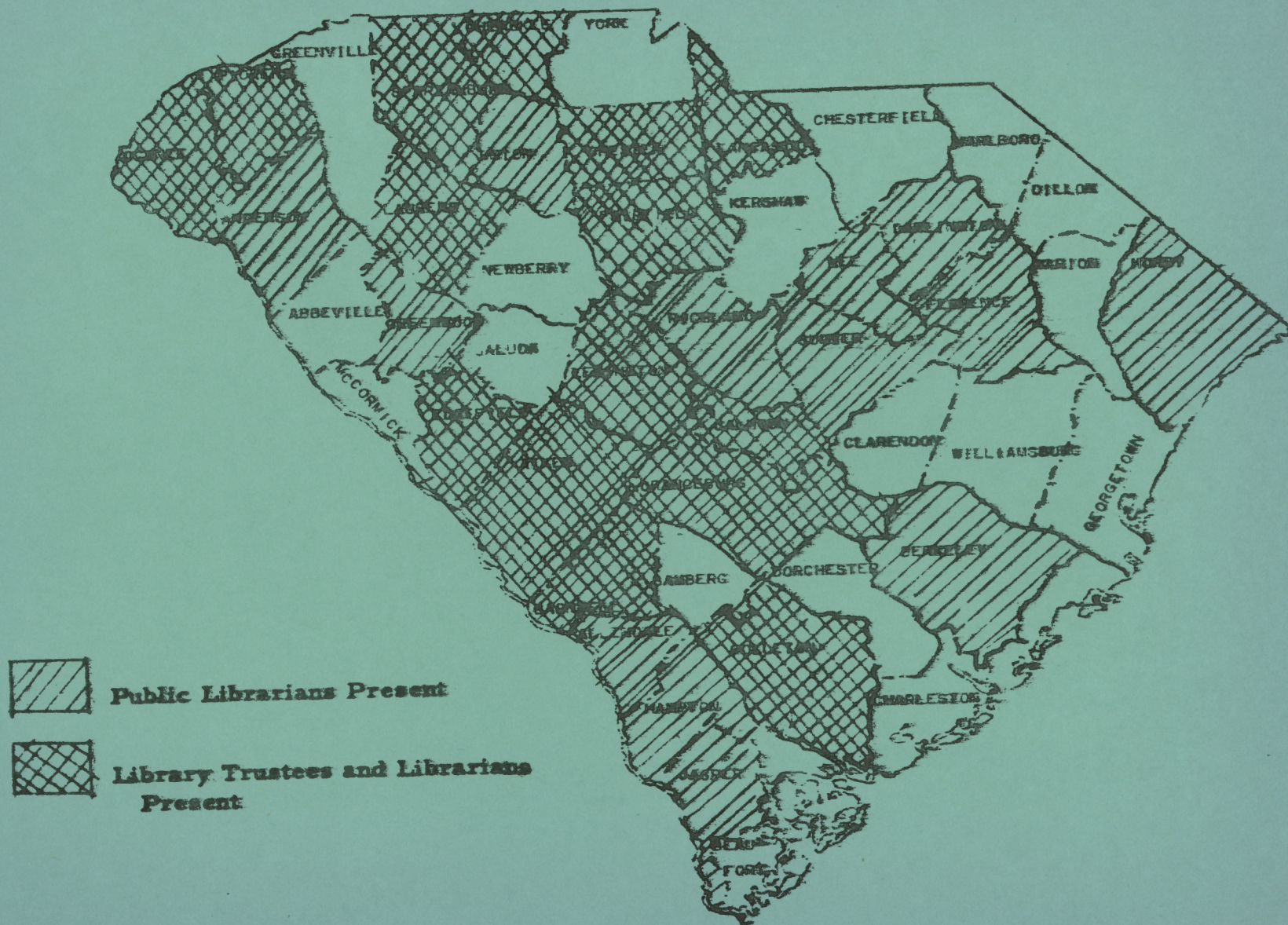
The Richland County Public Library exhibiting books on roses, in connection with the State Fair's Old Rose Exhibit.

The Florence Public Library noting an upsurge of interest in non-fiction.

One South Carolina librarian, who shall remain anonymous, returning after a day off to find Mrs. Ewing's Adventures of a Brownie "neatly tucked in with the Scout books."



# **PUBLIC LIBRARY ATTENDANCE - SCLA OCTOBER 28-29, 1960**





Sept. 19, 1960

# Library Needs Help, Not Criticism

With the threat of a coercive federal court order removed, the Mayor and City Council and the Board of Trustees of the Greenville Public Library have moved with dispatch to reopen both branches of the Library.

A joint statement issued by the Mayor and the Chairman of the Library Board says in so many words that all of the facilities of the Library will be open to all citizens of Greenville County who intend to put them to productive and conscientious use.

By the same token, no citizen or group of citizens will be allowed to enter the Library premises for the purpose of staging a demonstration or creating a disturbance.

This simply means, that there will be no racial barriers at the Library, but no person, regardless of race, will be allowed to misbehave or interfere with the legitimate use of the facilities by other persons.

The decision to close the Library in order to render moot the issues raised in an ill-advised suit arising from a deliberately provoked incident could not have been an easy one to make. Those who made it knew the gravity of what they were doing, for they are conscientious and intelligent citizens.

They knew also that they would receive a barrage of criticism from the agitators and from the "color-blind" idealists who view the race issue with the detachment which only those who haven't had to become directly involved can assume.

Now that these same citizens, acting in their public capacity, have reopened the Library on the new basis they probably will be the object of a new storm of abuse from extremists on the other side.

Would it not be just as easy for the critics to give themselves credit for trying to act in the best interests of all concerned, and then only after obtaining the best available legal advice? Could it not be that they were motivated by a genuine desire to preserve the Library and, if possible, to renew the recently dampened hopes for expansion and improvement?

None of this was possible so

long as the threat of force existed.

The officials have done what they can, what we believe they should have done in each instance. The rest is up to the public.

Negroes and Whites many now use both branches of the Library on exactly the same basis. The Greenville Library will now operate in the same fashion as do those in Charleston, Columbia and Spartanburg. In all three of those cities, branches exist in White and Negro areas, but all are open to members of both races.

This is no cause for anyone to either gloat or complain that an integration "breakthrough" has occurred. The Library simply isn't in the same category of public facilities as parks and playground, swimming pools and the like.

Should the same situation arise with respect to any of these, we would say close them—and keep them closed or, else, sell to private operators.

Nor is the Library in the same category with the public schools.

Contacts and associations in the Library are brief and lacking in the intimacy which exists in parks, swimming pools and schools. Each patron goes about his business in the same way he does at the bank, the postoffice or on the public bus.

The new method of operating the Library will require some adjustments and, perhaps, a few procedural rules to be made. But the most important thing is the obligation it places on the public. Whites must conduct themselves with patience and forbearance. Negroes must display common sense and a genuine interest in reading and study.

Neither branch of the Library is adequate for the number of people each has been serving in the past. Certainly neither can accommodate the combined patronage of both. Thus, the change only heightens the need for a bigger and better set of facilities. The Negroes need it more than anyone else.

It is to be hoped that those who so eagerly criticized the handling of the Library crisis will be just as eager to go to work in behalf of the needed improvements.

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Sept. 22, 1960

## Letters To The Editor: The Library

Editor, The Piedmont:

Congratulations to the Greenville Public Library for its courageous efforts to reopen the library. Those of us who were shocked by the arbitrary closing of the Library were pleased by the articles and editorials carried by your newspaper which gave voice to the strong public sentiment against that action. I sincerely hope that now that the public is aware of its need for the library, funds will be made available for its expansion and improvement.

Thank you

DAVIDIA F. ABRAMS  
Greenville

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Sept. 30, 1960

## Library Action Is Needed Now

By JAMES H. MCKINNEY JR.

A LITTLE NOSING around suffices to show that the movement for library improvement is still alive and kicking, despite all the upheaval over the racial situation.

The very fact that the North Main Street library building now is open to everybody has tended to quicken rather than to diminish interest in getting better facilities. The "new" situation at the old building emphasizes for many people the fact that the Greenville Public Library is totally inadequate to meet the demands of this day.

So it is that you hear individuals and groups talking about renewed efforts to strengthen the library.



MCKINNEY

The thought occurs that it will take some organized work to get things rolling toward a better library. A spur-of-the-moment effort after the County Legislative Delegation already has moved to Columbia in January probably won't do the job. By then it will be a case of too little, too late.

Now is the time to get things moving. Now is the time for all those citizens who turned out to meet with the Delegation some months ago to stir themselves again. This time they should form a permanent organization.

Quite apart from legislative efforts, there are numerous projects and services a permanent group, organized on a broad base, could do to help the library meet the book needs of Greenville County. Such things as constant promotion and volunteer services are important to the success of a library.

To repeat, now is the time for solid action to begin. Time already has begun to run out as far as another year is concerned.